Cities, Property of Negroes — 1916

RACE PROGRESS IN ASHEVILLE

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TWENTY-THREE PER CENT OF CITY'S POPULATION COLORED. MANY ENGAGED IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS.

(Special to Journal and Guide.)

Asheville, N. C., Oct. 3.—Asheville known the world over as the "Land of the Sky" is a city situated in heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains is noted for its pure water and no mosquitoes nor flies, some times called the flyless city, is a city of thirty thousand inhabitants, 23% of whom are colored. In this number can be found a good percentage of thrifty men and women who are forcing their way to the front. This article will refer to a few of this number.

Most of the colored business centers around the colored Y. M. I. (Young Men's Institute) which was built by the late Geo. W. Vanderbilt the owner of the famous Biltmore estate. After running it for several years for the colored people he decided to sell it to them. Under the leadership of Pro. W. J. Trent, (then general secretary, now general secretary of the Atlanta Y. M. C. A.) and several others the money was raised and the building bought.

It is three stories in height and contains a large auditorium, a reading room, reception hall, game room, several offices, and four store rooms.

The business places in this building are the Y. M. I. Drug Store, Y. M. I. Cafe, Stators Barber and Pressing Shop; McDowell's Shoe Shop and Murrough's Undertaking Co. The following offices are in the building: Dr. J. W. Walker, Dr. Thompson, Howell & McCoy, Real Estate; General Secretary of the Y. M. I., Murrough's Real Estate, Lawyer A. L. Alston and Forney's Real Estate.

Facing the Y. M. I. on Market street is the Masonic Temple, a three-story building. On the first floor is the Tailor Shop of J. H. McGinnis, a branch office of the North Carolina Mutual and Provident Insurance Co., Ogleby's Real Estate, and branch office of the Winston Mutual Insurance Co. The second floor is the K. of P. Hall and the third floor the Masonic Hall.

Facing the Y. M. I. Building on Eagle street is the Bryant-McCoy Building. On the first floor is the Revell Ice Cream Parlor, The Royal Cafe, and the U. X. L. Grocery Co. On the second floor is the offices of Lawyer Thompson, Pearson Real Estate and Harris Painting Co., office and shop. The third floor is a Lodge Hall.

Next to this building is the Star Theater owned by (white). The next building is the Bryant Building. The first floor is Wilson Undertaking Co., and on the second floor are the offices and laboratory of Dr. Bryant.

The Odd Fellows Building is the building. On the first floor are the following: The Cafe, the Atlantic Shoe Shop and Justice Barber Shop. The second floor is the offices of Drs. Shaffer and Thompson, and the Odd Fellows Hall on the third. This is the last building on Eagle street owned by colored people.

On Market street behind the Masonic Temple is the Cannon Building, which contains Cannon's Cafe and Real Estate offices.

The Thrash Building on Eagle street contains Brook's Barber Shop, Sigmon's Tailor Shop and Howell's Barber Shop.

On Biltmore Ave., one of Asheville's leading streets is the Wilson Building, which is owned by J. A. Wilson and contains his barber shop.

In the City Market our race is represented by B. J. Jackson, who runs the largest and best green vegetable stall and who caters to the leading people and hotels of the city.

On Park Square, Asheville's business center, we have two colored barber shops for white, Bowman's Barber Shop run by A. J. Bowman, and The Legal Barber Shop run by McDonald.

These are a few of the leading business places of Asheville.